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increase wartime mission
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helps children deploy

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First responders react



photo by Senior Airman Veronica Pierce

From left, Airman First Class Bernie Ortiz, Capt. Owen Roberts and Airman First Class Jonathan Maxwell, 374th Medical Operations Squadron, load a dummy patient onto a litter to provide further treatment for simulated smoke inhalation during a scenario in this week's Operational Readiness Exercise. Exercises prepare base personnel to respond to contingencies and other events to prepare them for real-world scenarios.

Yokota shares skies with local air traffic

By Marine Cpl. Leslie Palmer
Air Force Print News

(AFPN) — Traveling can be a hectic task, but officials here are helping ease the stress and headaches of today's travelers.

The Road Map to Realignment is a group of initiatives designed to help future operations between U.S. and Japanese forces. One of the initiatives under this agreement is changing Yokota's air space to accommodate Japanese airliners.

"There's approximately 190 aircraft that use a route that transitions over Yokota air space. So, we've created several blocks of air space that we transfer control back and forth between facilities," said Senior Master Sgt. Art Griffenkrantz, 5th Air Force superintendent of aviation affairs.

"This reduces the workload between air traffic facilities and enables the aircraft to turn a little bit earlier, climb at a little bit slower rate, which is an economic savings to the airlines and an increase in convenience for general passengers," Sergeant Griffenkrantz said.

Saving passengers time and money helped motivate this decision and also builds a good relationship between U.S. and Japanese forces.

"Each flight will save one minute," Sergeant Griffenkrantz said. "Considering the number of flights transitioning this air space, this initiative saves about 70,000 minutes per year. That's a huge economic savings for airlines."

This agreement will not affect the mission.

"When we need the air space for recall of our aircraft, we have the ability to call that air space back, so we can meet our military mission requirements," Sergeant Griffenkrantz said.

Japanese, U.S. Airmen share insight, provide feedback at tactics symposium

By Capt. Jason Medina
U.S. Forces Japan Public Affairs

(AFPN) — Airmen from 5th Air Force here sponsored a tactics symposium Sept. 26 to 27, bringing together 30 representatives



photo by Minoru Toyoshima

An Airman speaks with a Japanese Air Self Defense pilot in front of an F-4 aircraft at Misawa Air Base, Japan, during Cope North Guam in June.

from the Japanese Air Self Defense Force and U.S. military components in Japan.

A first of its kind, the event allowed captains and majors from operations-related specialties to discuss insights on regional threats and tactics. Topics included real-world contingencies, intelligence gathering and improving interoperability.

"Japan is our closest ally in the region," said Lt. Col. Robert Rogers, 5th Air Force deputy director of operations and event planner, "This event is a unique chance to exchange operational perspectives with the various flying units based in the Pacific."

Attendees also discussed training issues. Two bilateral exercises in particular — Cooperative Cope Thunder in Alaska and Cope North on Guam — offer an advantage that JASDF pilots don't have at home: live fire ranges.

Exercises give participants the opportunity

to operate in large-force employment scenarios in controlled environments.

American and Japanese Airmen hailed the symposium as a success, and recognized its positive impact to professional development and the U.S.-Japan alliance.

"This tactics symposium is an innovative way to allow captains and majors to share ideas, build personal relationships with their bilateral counterparts, and truly enhance combat power — one plus one equals much more than two," said Brig. Gen. Joseph M. Reheiser, 5th Air Force vice commander. "Japan is a full partner with the United States, and we can learn much from each other."

The interaction between operators has come a long way. In a three-year assignment to Yokota 27 years ago, the general said he met with his Japanese counterpart once.

Today, U.S. and Japanese Airmen training, working and flying together is more common. Misawa Air Base shares a flightline with the Japanese Air Self Defense Force unit.

"We participate in a couple bilateral exercises throughout the year," said Capt. Greg Barasch from Misawa's 14th Fighter Squadron weapons section. "Flying with the Japanese F-4s (interceptors) and F-2s (multi-role aircraft) is a definite stepping stone toward bilateral interoperability."

"Japan is a full partner with the United States, and we can learn much from each other."

Brig. Gen. Joseph M. Reheiser,
5th Air Force vice commander

Global mobility aircraft saving lives in Iraq

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Mobility aircraft in Iraq and Afghanistan, including three Yokota C-130s, are helping keep Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors out of harm's way.

During the Air Force Association's 2006 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition here Sept. 26, Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, Air Mobility Command commander, said C-130 Hercules aircraft are now performing missions that used to be performed by military members on the ground.

Army Gen. John P. Abizaid, the commander of U.S. Central Command, had asked AMC to help find a way to get supply convoys off the roads, General McNabb said. The much-needed, slow-moving convoys have proven easy targets for insurgents in Iraq. The general told conference attendees AMC had a solution.

"We started using the C-130s," he said. "We are going to carry everybody by air now. We are not going to do any buses. We had 63 C-130s in theater and they just started doing all the routes that used to be done traditionally by ground convoy or buses. Then we said we'll get C-130s to carry passengers and we will institute theater direct delivery."

Three of the C-130s are deployed from Yokota Air Base.

"We currently have three C-130s, with associated operations and maintenance personnel, deployed to CENTCOM and are proud to do our part," said Col. Kevin Kilb, 374th Operations Group commander. "The C-130 is the intra-theater transport workhorse, providing a critical combat capability in the Global War on Terror."

According to General McNabb, by using C-130s to move cargo that used to be moved by ground convoys, the Air Force has taken some 9,000 personnel a month out of harm's way.

General McNabb also said AMC has started using C-5 Galaxy and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft to move heavy equipment formerly moved on the ground. The Air Force now has used its cargo aircraft to move as much as 63,000 tons of armored vehicles.

The Air Force also placed two C-17 squadrons — about 20 aircraft — on 120-day rotation in the United States Central

Command Air Forces area of responsibility, General McNabb said.

Those C-17s now are experiencing more wear and tear than would be expected under normal operations. While flying time has started to decrease, the number of landings and take offs has increased to almost three times that of what was expected. General McNabb said Congress has recognized the increased usage and responded.

"The Congress just (approved) that appropriation of the 10 C-17s, because we made that case," he said. "The wear and tear on the C-17s is very real. It is the wartime use that really got us."

At the same time the Air Force is preventing loss of life by finding new, safer ways to move cargo, it also is saving lives by finding more innovative ways to move the military people who do get injured back to the United States.

In the past, the Air Force used dedicated aircraft to move injured people out of theater. Today, special support pallets are used for patients. Those pallets can be loaded on any available aircraft that is headed home. That increased flexibility has improved the chances that injured personnel will survive.

"Now we get them to the doctor or a facility, maybe the only place in the world where you can save their lives," General McNabb said.

During the Vietnam conflict, it took as many as 30 days to move injured patients back to the United States. During Desert Storm, that time was reduced to 10 days. Today, that time has been reduced to just three days.

"Time is what saves people," General McNabb said.

Getting aircraft from all services into theater is one of the key missions of AMC. Many aircraft use the nearly 9,000-mile "air bridge," maintained by AMC tanker aircraft, to get to the CENTAF area of responsibility.



photo by Staff Sgt. Kenny Kennemer

Parajumpers execute a low-level jump out of the back of a C-130 Hercules. By using these aircraft to move cargo, previously done by ground convoys, the Air Force is taking some personnel out of harm's way.

General McNabb said the refueling mission is important to the joint fight, so it is critical the Air Force move to recapitalize the tanker fleet.

"It's one of those things only our country can do, but what an amazing difference it made," General McNabb said. "AMC tankers bring the fuel to the fight and enable global power, there is no question, and that is why this new tanker becomes so important."

The new tankers the Air Force wants will bring more than just refueling to the mission. The replacement tanker will have cargo capacity, situational awareness, self-defense capability and the ability to conduct both probe and drogue refueling during the same sortie. The new aircraft also will be able to give and receive fuel, General McNabb said.

"Right now, when a KC-135 Stratotanker has taken care of all its customers, it will bring its (remaining) fuel back," he said. "We have a number of KC-135s that land with between 35,000 and 40,000 pounds of fuel on the airplane."

General McNabb said he would like to find a way to keep that fuel up in the air and "in the fight," instead of bringing it back home. While the Air Force does have some 60 KC-10 Extender aircraft that can take on

extra fuel from a KC-135, the general said he'd like to increase the number of aircraft with that capability.

"If we have a number of new tankers with that capability, you can imagine how we change our concept of operations," he said.

Finally, General McNabb addressed the Joint Cargo Aircraft, a program it is developing hand-in-hand with the U.S. Army. The JCA will have about half the cargo capacity of the C-130 aircraft, but will be more agile.

Both the Air Force and the Army agree the JCA will bring three capabilities to the fight. First, the JCA will be able to do short takeoffs and landings. Second, the JCA will provide "persistence." Because of its smaller cargo capacity, it can more efficiently move smaller loads of supplies and people to forward locations. Third, the JCA will fill a need revealed during relief efforts in New Orleans — it will have the ability to react quickly and operate from unimproved runways.

"The JCA fits a niche I think kind of evolved over time because of what we are doing in the GWOT," General McNabb said.

(Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman, 374th Air-lift Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this article.)

AD

Prevention week fires up Saturday at YCC

By Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

This year's Fire Prevention Week starts Saturday and runs through Oct. 14 with various events planned through the week.

"This year's theme is "Watch What You Heat!," which emphasizes safety due to cooking-related fires," said Staff Sgt. Matthew Perreira, 374th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department fire inspector. "In 2004, cooking-related fires caused an estimated 185,600 damaged structures, 80 deaths, 3,875 injuries and \$481 million in property damage."

"Unattended cooking fires are the number one cause of fires here," said Master Sgt. Philip Nixon, 374 CES assistant fire chief of prevention. "In the past 18 months, Yokota Air Base firefighters responded to 11 unattended cooking fires that resulted in \$4,700 in property damage. That is why this safety week is so important, especially to the people who live here."

"By dedicating time to focus on safety in the kitchen while cooking, we hope to prevent these fires or at least help people understand what to do in case it happens to them to limit any costly damages, ei-

ther to the property or themselves," said Sergeant Perreira.

"The Yokota and Tokyo fire departments are joining forces on Saturday to officially kick off the prevention week at the Yokota Community Center starting at 11 a.m. and running until about 1 p.m.," said Sergeant Nixon.

Events for the day include a fire truck display, ladder truck demonstrations an earthquake simulator and numerous events for the children.

"We will have a lot of entertainment for children to come out and enjoy," said Sergeant Perreira. "Even the American and Japanese mascots will be teaming up to have pictures taken with the children. Also, we will have a fire safety house demonstration, balloon booth and a bounce house."

"We try to make it as fun and entertaining as possible, because this is one of the best ways we have found to get the information out to the people," said Sergeant Nixon.

According to The National Fire Protection Association Web site, at www.fireprevention.org, Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.



Courtesy photo

A kitchen in a Yokota Air Base home that was damaged as a result of someone who left their cooking area unattended. The fire department has responded to approximately 11 calls in the past 18 months, where this has been the cause of a fire.

Fire Prevention Week Schedule of events

Saturday – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Joint Fire Prevention Week kicks off at the Yokota Community Center.

Tuesday – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., fire safety house at Yokota West Elementary School.

Wednesday – 6:30 to 8 p.m., Sparky

the fire dog, will participate in Kids Night Out at the Enlisted Club.

Thursday – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hands-on fire extinguisher training at Yokota Middle School.

Oct. 13 – all day, Firefighter Challenge at Yokota High School.

AD

Looking forward to another good year!

By Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright

United States Forces Japan and 5th Air Force commander

The heart of our U.S. military's awesome combat power lies not in our steel and technology. The capability of our US forces in Japan is all about our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, military civilians and families. Further building on U.S. forces combat capability, our partnership with the Japan Self Defense Force has never been stronger in a part of the world that can be unpredictable and dangerous as we face that challenge and work together to preserve peace and stability. Whether a uniformed service member, DoD civilian or family member, your commitment and professionalism enable us to protect the United States of America, take the fight to our adversaries in the war on terrorism, and ensure the sustained, effective defense of both the United States and Japan in the increasingly important Asia-Pacific region.

Please accept my heartfelt respect and appreciation for your performance during Fiscal Year 2006. We have had a phenomenal year. We accomplished our mission safely and effectively. We made historic progress in strengthening our U.S.-Japan security alliance through the transformation and realignment process. And we forged strong interpersonal relationships with our Japanese neighbors and professional counterparts on both an individual and unit level. One indicator of our success across these areas: Japanese public opinion toward America and the presence of U.S. Forces in Japan is at a historic high.

Now is the time to build on this foun-

dation and take our performance to even higher levels.

Strong leadership is already in place. Admiral William Fallon has framed a vision for the Pacific centered on improving military-to-military contacts and communication across the region. Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer's engaged leadership and focus on security issues amidst his many other policy responsibilities have given us an unprecedented level of diplomatic and military teaming. Lt. Gen. Joe Weber, Vice Adm. Doug Broward, Maj. Gen. Nick Perkins and Rear Adm. Jamie Kelley and our team of very capable and experienced senior enlisted leaders have been tireless in taking care of our people, improving our joint and bilateral interoperability and capability, and building better relations with our Japanese partners.

Likewise, we've enjoyed visionary leadership from our Japan Self-Defense Force and Government of Japan counterparts. Former Chairman of the Joint Staff Office, Gen. Hajime Massaki led the SDF into a new joint structure. His successor, Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff Office, ADM Takashi Saito, has a deep understanding and commitment to the importance of interoperability and the power of our military-to-military friendships. I continue to be appreciative and impressed, too, by the leadership of Japanese mayors and other local Japanese community leaders associated with the military installations where we work and live.

So what comes next? Just as on the football field or basketball court, rule number one is to focus on the fundamentals. Those fundamentals are safety and unwavering professionalism.

When it comes to safety, "Zero Mishaps" will always be our goal. When it comes to successfully accomplishing the mission here in Ja-

pan, unwavering professionalism takes on strategic importance. In Japan, a single person's unprofessional act can have singularly harmful regional strategic effects. Put another way, we can hurt our U.S.-Japan Alliance as much or more through our own wrongful actions than anything potential enemies might do to weaken the al-

liance. Our team, U.S. forces in Japan, must continue to exemplify, reaffirm, and enforce the highest standards of conduct.

As we look forward to 2007 and another challenging fiscal year, I offer my sincere, everlasting thanks for the courage and commitment of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, civilian team members and families as we keep the peace in a dangerous part of the world through the visible and deterrent capabilities of our U.S. forces in partnership with our Japanese counterparts and neighbors. One plus one equals much more than two as we work closely within the U.S.-Japan Alliance to sustain our deterrent credibility and continue to open our arms to joint and multilateral engagement with other military forces in the East Asia-Pacific region.

"Japanese public opinion toward America and the presence of U.S. Forces in Japan is at a historic high,"

Lt. Gen. Bruce Wright

U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force commander

There are no acceptable excuses when it comes to college

By Lt. Col. Anthony Thomas

374th Communications Squadron

As I sit working on this article, I look across the table and see my daughter working on her high school English homework. I realize we only have about two more years before she is off to college.

The amazing thing is she is 10 times the student I was and carries a 4.0 grade point average.

You are probably wondering why any of you should care.

Well, it may be you or one of your children, who has thought about college and the desire to go.

As with our children's young minds, we in the military must continue to grow and get our education.

I remember my parents telling me, "Son, if you want to go to college you will need to pay for it yourself."

Knowing they didn't have the means to pay for college, and I surely wasn't going to go in debt, I decided to take the military route.

I figured I could give four years of my life in return for a college education. So, I raised my right hand and enlisted to serve my country.

After basic training and technical school, I wanted to get started on my degree right away.

I started taking classes, whenever I could fit them in. I took them during lunch, evening, and even on the weekend.

I did almost anything to get my college out of the way.

As my first assignment ticked away I realized that I liked the Air Force more than I originally planned. I told myself, if I am going to do this for a living I want to make more money. I was going to

get my commission.

I applied for every college scholarship and commissioning program there was.

Back then there were a few programs that offered Airmen a chance to get a degree and a commission. Now the opportunities are far greater than when I enlisted.

I am surprised at how many people have reasons they have not received their degree.

The military education programs and opportunities out there are endless. Just to name a few, you have:

Tuition Assistance, Veterans Education Assistance Program, Montgomery GI Bill, Community College of the Air Force, The Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support, The College-Level Examination Program, Air Force Educational Leave of Absence, Airman Education and

Commissioning Program, Officer Training School United States Air Force Academy, Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program, AFROTC Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program.

Now, with all of that I would like to challenge each of you to further your education and get a degree.

You can not make excuses. It is far fetched for me to believe you cannot do it.

Another note, if you decide to get out of the military and have a degree, depending on where you go, you can make \$15 to 30 thousand more a year with a bachelors degree.

So, complete your education and earn your degree. Remember, no one can ever take your education away from you.



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Eight Co., Ltd.

Publisher

DUI Prevention

Sept. 27 – Oct. 3	0
Total DUIs in October	0
Total in 2006	12

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hrs.
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

Misconduct Prevention

Sept. 27 – Oct. 3	0
Total incidents in October	0
Total in 2006	75

Punishment

Family members or civilians can lose AAFES, MWR or Commissary privileges; receive fines or restitution, community service hours, evaluation or counseling, curfew, suspension or loss of driving privileges and debarment from base through the Yokota Conduct Adjudication Program.

action.lines-1@yokota.af.mil

The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed.

Operation KUDOS



photos by Master Sgt. Dominique Brown

By Master Sgt. Dominique Brown
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Kids Understanding Deployment Operations was held Saturday here, sponsored by the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Children processed through a mobility line and received miniature mobility bags, mobility folders and dog tags to experience what it is like for a parent to deploy.

After the processing, children participated in other activities set up related to deploying that included touring a C-130 on the flightline, trying on gas masks or playing in a 10-man field tent.

"KUDOS helps children develop coping and problem solving skills to deal with deployments," said Tech. Sgt. Cesa Sullivan, AFRC readiness noncommissioned officer in charge. "Parents are also encouraged to talk about deployments rather than avoiding the issue so family stress are minimized."



Bottom left, Paul Riedel checks out the video-telephone display. The phones are used for deployed members and their families to see and speak to each other. Middle left, a KUDOS participant checks out a gas mask at the readiness table display. Top left, a future Airman struggles to lift a fully packed C-Bag at the mobility bag station. Above, Seth Pfeifer transitions through the mobility line to experience what it is like if one of his parents deploy. Below, a young girl examines a snake in a jar at a table displaying critters from the desert.



Top, Jenny Lumaban watches her son Brandon get his face painted camouflage by Airman Virginia Modic. Above, Jenna Crouch and Julia Joslyn participate in the KUDOS event dressed up as little warriors while sampling the free popcorn. Hot dogs, chips and drinks were provided compliments of the Commissary.

AD

Off base

Free dance performance:

Kiraku Public Kabuki Association is performing traditional Japanese dance Saturday at Fussa Civic Hall, small hall 2F. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and performance runs 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Flower exhibition: Asakusa Kikuka-ten is a mum exhibition running Oct. 15 through Nov. 15. This event features more than 1,000 chrysanthemum inside the Asakusa Temple.

On base

Movies

Today – *Open Season*, PG, 7 p.m.; *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, PG-13, 10 p.m.

Saturday – *Barnyard*, PG, 2 p.m.; *Open Season*, PG, 7 p.m.; *Zoom*, PG, 10 p.m.

Sunday – *Open Season*, PG, 2 p.m.; *Zoom*, PG, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Open Season*, PG, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Barnyard*, PG, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *Zoom*, PG, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

225-RIDE

Volunteers are needed to answer calls and provide rides for military members. If interested, e-mail 225-RIDE@yokota.af.mil.

Airmen's Attic

The Airmen's Attic is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. This service is only available to E-5 and below. For more information or to volunteer, call Master Sgt. Jon Borseth at 225-5908.

Lights on After School

Lights on After School is celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of after school

programs for America's children, families and communities. The Teen Center, youth centers and School Age Care Programs will be open from 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday to people interested in seeing what Yokota offers to dependents.

Education survey

The Base Training and Education Services flight is conducting a "needs assessment" survey to ensure the academic programs on base are meeting the needs of personnel on base. Air Force and civilian personnel can access the survey from the Air Force Portal's Air Force Virtual Education Center site. For more information, call 225-7337.

PSAT testing

All students interested in taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test must turn in their permission slips by Thursday. The PSAT will be Oct. 18 beginning at 8 a.m. The test is free for students in 10th and 11th grades. For anyone else desiring to take the test the cost is \$12 and must be paid prior to Oct. 12. For more information, call Jan Noyes at 225-7018 or 225-7019.

Project Graduation*

Yokota High School's 2007 graduation class' next community meeting is Oct. 17 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the base library. For more information, call 227-4769 or 227-2805.

South Gate closure

Beginning Monday, the South Gate will no longer be open from 6 to 8 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Volunteers needed

The Yokota Officer Spouses Club* is looking for volunteers to assist vendors, donate baked goods and provide Japanese and Korean language assistance during their Asian Bazaar Oct. 14 and 15. To volunteer, call Kelly at 227-5009 or e-mail yoscbazaarvolunteer@yahoo.com.

Route 56*

This group consists of junior noncommissioned officers. The meetings are the third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at the Enlisted Club. Discussions include morale and welfare of other enlisted members on base. For more information, call 225-8064.

Girl Scouts

The Yokota Girl Scouts* are looking for new members in grades Kindergarten through 12th. For more information or to join the local scout troop, e-mail yokotagirlscouts@yahoo.com.

Give Parents a Break

The next Give Parents a Break day, sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society, is Oct. 21. Sign up by Oct. 13. For eligibility requirements call the Child Development Center at 225-8860.

Chapel schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel

Catholic Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.

Korean service, Sundays at 1 p.m.

Seventh Day Adventists, first and third Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel

Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Contemporary service Sundays at 5 p.m.

Single's ministry

Young adults and singles of the chapel are welcome.

Tuesdays – Free dinner, Bible discussion and fellowship starts at 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays – Intercessory prayer at 6 p.m. and fellowship and snacks at 7 p.m.

Fridays – "Extreme Coffee Bar" with snacks, drinks and games from 7 p.m. to midnight.

Saturdays – Morning sports activities at the main gym, brunch at 1 p.m. and band practice from 3 to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 225-7009.

Samurai Warrior



of the Week



**Airman First Class
Brandon Abby**

Airman First Class Brandon Abby, 374th Security Forces Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the qualities of sincerity and respect for one's word of honor, absolute loyalty to one's superior and a duty to defend the honor of one's name and guild.

Airman Abby is an installation force protector. His commitment to excellence was crucial during the processing of more than 132,000 visitors attending the Yokota Air Base Friendship Festival. He was instrumental in preventing 53 unauthorized individuals from gaining access to the base. Additionally, he confiscated more than 200 pounds of illegal contraband and dangerous items at the entry control point, enhancing the safety of all those in attendance.

Cooking classes

There is a Japanese cooking class at the Airman and Family Readiness Center Tuesday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. For more information on the class or other available classes, call 225-8725.

Spouse employment

If you are a military spouse and would like assistance searching for a job, stop by the Airman and Family Readiness Center. Classes are available to help you get started in the job search. For more information, e-mail tracie.hathorn@yokota.af.mil.

Self Help store

The base Self Help store is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. People can get supplies for base housing units, self help projects or sign out tools and equipment. Call 225-7086.

Homeschool group

The Yokota Homeschool

Group* hosts monthly meetings, field trips and other events during the school year. For more information, send an e-mail to yokotahomeschoolers@hotmail.com.

Assignments online

Enlisted Airmen are responsible for updating their own assignment preferences online through the Virtual MPF. Refer to instructions found under Self Service Actions.

Voting information

People can find out about the candidates running for office and issues, in their county of residence, from a non-partisan Web site at www.vote-smart.org/index.htm.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“The problem is that when you get it, you’re too old to do anything about it.”

Jimmy Connors, on experience

Golf tournament: The Yokota High School Project Graduation committee needs volunteers for their golf tournament, Oct. 31 at Tama Hills. If interested, call 227-4769 or 227-9637 by Oct. 14.

Baseball club: Yokota Hawks Baseball Club is looking for adult baseball players for the winter league season. There will be two games per month running through March. If interested in joining or need information, call 080-500-57357.

Running clinic: Learn about safe running strategies, programs, running mechanics, injury prevention and self treatment through the Health and Wellness Center’s running clinic Oct. 19, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Also receive expert analysis of foot type to recommended running shoes. Call 225-8322.

Yoga class: Yoga classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Taiyo Recreation Center. Cost is \$30. Call 225-6955.

Boxing class: Boxing classes are available for adults and youth ages 14 to 17. Cost is \$50 per month for youth and \$60 for adults. For more information, to register or for a class schedule, call or stop by the Taiyo Community Center or call 225-6955.

Yokota’s Fencing Club – “on guard”



photo by Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman



photo by Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman

Top, Sean Harris, 374th Comptroller Squadron, runs through drills with his fencing club students during practice Tuesday. They are practicing their extend-lunge technique. Left, two students and practicing fencers, fight with safety tipped swords at one of the fencing clubs meetings. Below, the Yokota Black Tigers team bout with an opposing team during a tournament at Tama Hills. Bottom right, five students line up to prepare to run through fencing drills with their instructor. Right, two opponents face off during a smaller tournament at Yokota Air Base. The Yokota Black Tigers Fencing Club meets Tuesdays and Thursdays on the basketball court outside of the east side Natatorium from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Participants are also involved in approximately six tournaments every year. Most of these tournaments are at Tama Hills. They live by the motto “If you are not getting hit, you are not learning.”



courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

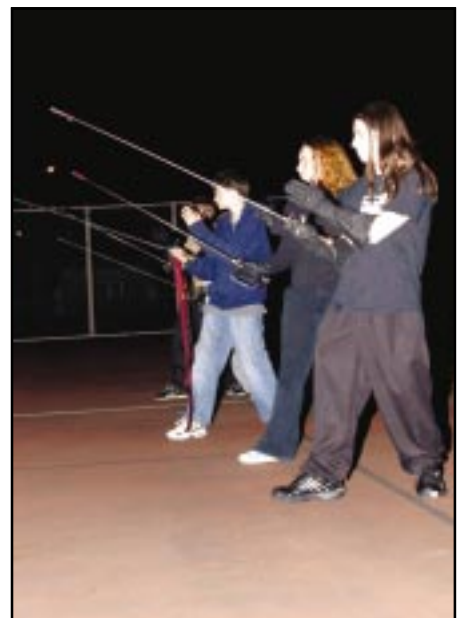


photo by Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman

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